

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims ~~6~~ and ~~28~~ without prejudice of disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend claims 1, 22 and 68 as follows (a marked-up version of the amended claims is submitted in an Appendix attached at the end of this Amendment):

1. (Twice Amended) A former for producing a tissue web, comprising:

a forming element comprising a forming roll, an inner dewatering belt, and an outer dewatering belt;

the inner and outer belts converging to form a stock inlet nip;

the inner and outer belts being guided by the forming roll and thereafter separating from one another in the area of a separation point;

at least one suction element positioned adjacent the inner belt on a side which is opposite the outer belt; and

the at least one suction element being positioned at least one of:

within the forming roll; and

adjacent the area of the separation point,

wherein the inner and outer belts separate from each other immediately following the forming roll.

22. (Twice Amended) A former for producing a tissue web, comprising:
a forming element comprising a forming roll, an inner dewatering belt, and an outer dewatering belt;
the inner and outer belts converging to form a stock inlet nip;
the inner and outer belts being guided by the forming roll and thereafter separating from one another in the area of a separation point;
a conditioning device positioned adjacent the outer belt; and
at least one suction element being positioned at least one of:
within the forming roll; and
adjacent the area of the separation point,
wherein the inner and outer belts separate from each other immediately following the forming roll.

68. (Amended) A former for producing a tissue web, comprising:
a forming roll, an inner continuous dewatering belt, and an outer continuous dewatering belt;
the inner and outer belts converging to form a stock inlet nip;
a headbox positioned adjacent the stock inlet nip;
each of the inner and outer belts forming corresponding inner and outer continuous